# MAINE FARMER

## AND JOURNAL OF THE USEFUL ARTS.

BY WILLIAM NOYES & CO.] "Our Home, Our Country, and Our Brother Man." [E. HOLMES, Editor.

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## THE FARMER.

WINTHROP, FRIDAY MORNING, DEC. 30, 1836.

### Chemistry for Farmers. No. 27.

SODA.

Besides the alkaline substances found in the ashes of common plants which has been called potash, from the circumstance before mentioned, there is another similar to it in many respects, found in sea water, and in the ashes of marine plants, such as sea weeds, &c. This has received the name of SODA—formerly it was called the *marine* alkali. If you should take large quantities of the weeds which are found thrown by the waves upon the sea shore, or growing upon the rocks in the sea, and burn them, and afterwards leach the ashes, you obtain a substance which is known in the market by the name of *Barrilla*. It is a compound of soda and the carbonic acid mixed with many impurities, or in other words, it is an impure Carbonate of Soda. This substance may be purified—the carbonic acid taken from it in the same manner that was laid down for purifying Potash. The oxide of Soda is then obtained. The oxygen can then be taken from it by the same process before recommended, and a bright soft metalic substance is obtained of a silvery whiteness, possessing many of the characteristics of a metal, and is called SODIUM.

This metal must be kept under some fluid, or in some medium which contains no oxygen, such as *naptha*.

It combines with oxygen, insomuch that if it be heated red hot it takes fire and burns with great brilliancy when it comes in contact with the common air—when it touches water it hisses with a violent effervescence. It may be a singular idea that the waves of the ocean, and the green weeds which flourish in its bosom, are made up in part of a metalic substance, so inflammable in its nature that it will burst forth when heated a little into a brilliant flame when it comes in contact with common air. This substance, however, like the base of potash is never seen except when divested of its combinations by the skill of the chemist. Such is the strong attraction which it has for other substances that it is continually chained down and held in a comparatively harmless and inert state, subservient to the thousand wants of mankind. Sodium combines with oxygen and forms the oxide of soda. This substance is not so caustic as the oxide of potash. It is a white substance but not much used in this state. With carbonic acid it forms the carbonate of soda. This is found in the market in different states of purity. In the impure form of Barrilla or kelp it is much used in the manufacture of glass when it is combined with flin and melted. Also in the manufactory of hard soaps. It may be well to mention here that all hard soaps are made from soda—while soft soaps are made from potash.

It is also used for many other purposes—in the arts and in medicine. There is a kind found in the shops under the name of "Soda," which is in reality a subcarbonate of soda or soda not possessing its full share of carbonic acid. This has lately come into use for washing. We have heretofore published the method adopted, but lest some of our readers may not have seen it we will give it again. It is to be used only for white clothes. It does not answer the purpose in case of calicoes and woollens.

1. *Mixture.*—Five gallons soft water, add half a gallon of lime water, a pint and a half of soft soap or a pound of hard soap, and two ounces of carbonate of soda.

2. *Method of Washing.*—Soak the clothes over night if very dirty, at any rate wet them thorougly before putting them into the mixture. When the above mixture is at *boiling heat*, put in the clothes that have been soaked or wet, merely rubbing such parts with a little soap that are usually soiled.—Boil them *one hour*. They are then to be taken out and drained, and thoroughly rinsed in warm water, then in the indigo water as usual, and they are fit for drying. The lime water may be prepared and kept on hand—the soda, sub carbonate, (be sure to get the right kind) may be procured cheap, by purchasing it in a large quantity.

CHLORINE AND SODA. — If soda be put into chlorine gas, it combines, and a white salt is formed, which crystallizes in the form of square or cubical blocks.

This is a very useful and well known substance, and is commonly known by the name of *common salt—table salt—sea salt*. It may be also made by putting soda into the *muriatic acid*. But it is not necessary to resort to either the chlorine or muriatic to procure it. It is obtaiaed in vast quantities from the sea water. Sea water is made up of—or rather contains in solution a variety of substances —the most abundant of which is the chloride of soda or common salt.

This is obtained from it in various ways—sometimes by putting the sea water into large vats, and letting the fresh water evaporate by the heat of the sun. In some places it is put into large kettles and evaporated by the heat of fire kindled beneath them. In other places the water is let into shallow places in the ground and suffered to evaporate by the heat of the sun. This is followed in hot climates.

In the interior of some countries, as in New-York, and some of the western States, are salt springs, the water of which is pumped up and evaporated. In Poland it is dug up by miners from a vast depth below the surface of the earth.

The salt mines of this country are perhaps the most extensive in the world. They are 800 feet deep. In this vast depth is found a subterranean city, made by the excavation of the miners in digging the salt. This city is lighted by lamps. The roof of it is supported by columns of salt which are left. Houses, chapels, &c. &c. are formed in the solid salt.—A stream of fresh water runs thro it—and it is said that children are born here, and live quite a long life without ever coming above ground, or becoming acquainted with their brethren of the upper regions.

In England there is a formation of this substance which is dug up and carried to Liverpool to be purified, and hence called *Liverpool Salt*.

As this substance is essential to life, the Almighty has caused it to be deposited in and about the earth in inexhaustible quantities. The springs of New York have yielded 1,441,553 bushels of salt, per annum. This substance is so well known, and its uses so common that we need not dwell more upon it.

SULPHURIC ACID AND SODA.—These two substances unite and form Sulphate of Soda—better known, perhaps, by the name of Glauber's Salts—from one Glauber, who first discovered them, and introduced them into medicine. When first formed it shoots into long needle shaped crystals but after a little exposure the water in them evaporates and they fall down in the form of a powder.

This salt has a bitter nauseous taste, and is chiefly used as a safe laxative medicine.

Soda combines with the other acids, but the combinations are of not much use in the arts. The nitric acid and soda form the Nitrate of soda, sometimes used as an ingredient in fire works.

As Potash and Soda resemble each other so much, it may be asked, how can we distinguish the one from the other? The following characteristics may serve to distinguish them.

The salts of soda are more soluble in water than those of potash, and crystalize quicker than potash.

If a substance called tartaric acid be dropped into a solution of potash, there will be a white sediment deposited, if dropped into a solution of soda there will be no deposit.

If a solution called sulphate of alumina be dropped into a solution of potash small crystals of alum will be deposited very soon—if in soda there will be none.

When the crystals of soda are heated they will melt easily and remain sometime in a liquid state—those of potash will not melt so easily. The taste is also another criterion to distinguish the two, used by those who have some acquaintance with them.

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*For the Maine Farmer.*

### Ploughing Match.

MR. HOLMES:—I observed one of your recent correspondents proposed that Ploughing Matches be dispensed with at the Cattle Shows of the Kennebec County Agricultural Society, and in lieu thereof that oxen and steers unequally matched be brought there for the purpose of exchange, to produce a more equal, and of course, more valuable pairs of cattle. I think the idea a proper one to be

acted on the second day of the Show, after the address in the morning.

I will merely enquire if it may not be a public advantage to have the second day also, considered more than heretofore, a day of sale and purchase of stock of every description, something in imitation of the Brighton Fair in epitome. If oxen or any other animals are brought there for sale, let a label be placed on the yoke denoting that fact, that purchasers may know it. Here purchasers of stock might repair and be accommodated, and saved the expense and trouble of riding through the country —and the vender here may expect to meet the purchaser. This I apprehend would make the Show more interesting and beneficial. I only enquire as to its utility. I wish every member of the community to give their ideas on the proposition, and any improvement of the foregoing hints. I have no interest but for the public good. I am aware that the Society nor their officers can do no more than to propose it, and the Committee will do what they deem on the whole best. FAYETTE.

*For the Maine Farmer.*

**Beans.**

MR. HOLMES:—Permit me to suggest to my brother farmers, that as the price of beans have been for several years past, there is no crop, (all things considered) gives a greater profit than beans. They do not need land in a high state of cultivation, if planted by themselves, as they always should be, when a variety not prone to rust is cultivated. That variety called the pea-bean is very prone to rust, but not so much so if a few kernels of corn are planted on the north side of every hill —let the bean crop be depended on more than the corn. Aside from their inclining to rust they are too late a bean for our climate, and ought no longer to be cultivated in Maine, since there are several other varieties of white beans that mature much earlier, and yield more, and are as valuable for the table. Never plant a running bean, they smother themselves and every thing near them. Many beans are taken into the woods as supplies for loggers—many more taken to sea, as they are not injured by frost in winter. This is judicious. Besides, they are more hearty, as we say, and therefore evidently save meat and bread, and one who dines on them is well sustained through the remaining part of the day if he labors hard. Let us raise more of them and attend more to the varieties we plant, and my word for it, so long as people lumber and go to sea, the price will fully reward us. A FARMER.

**Butter and Cheese.**

There was an exhibition of Butter and Cheese last week, before the Committee of the Massachusetts Agricultural Society. For the premium on Butter there were from fifteen to twenty competitors.

The first premium was awarded to William Bachop of Barnet, Vermont. The lot exhibited by this gentlemen consisted of forty-nine tubs, and weighed in the ,whole 2900 pounds. The Committee call this "very prime, of superior flavor, and very uniform" Mr Bachop had a large lot of Butter in the hall. But six tubs were, however, offered for premium. The lot thus offered appeared to the Committee to be far superior to any other Butter in the hall, and they were unanimous in awarding to Mr Bachop the *first* premium. With a view to ascertain the uniformity of Mr Bachop's butter, the Committee examined several firkins in the lot not offered for premium, and state that the result was highly satisfactory.

The second premium was awarded to L. Chamberlin of Westboro', Mass.

The third premium was given to R. Hilderth of Sterling.

The Committee state that the quality and quantity of the butter exhibited do not equal that of former years. Four or five lots were so indifferent that they were not permitted to be sold "under the auspices of the Society."

For Cheese, the first premium for *new*, was awarded to T. Fisher, of Burke, Vermont; the 2d to Elias Eagres, of Barre. Mr Fisher, of Burke, Vt., also presented a lot of very prime *old* Cheese, which obtained the first premium for that description.

The Committee say that the quantity of Cheese offered this year, does not quite come up to some years; only five lots of old, and seven of new. But they are gratified to have it in their power to state, that the *quality* of that now exhibited, by far exceeded that of any former exhibition; and it was with much difficulty that they could decide between the lots.—*Boston Courier.*

**The American Farmer.**

Nicholas Biddle, in an Address before the Philadelphia Society for promoting Agriculture, said—

If I have failed to prove that the pursuit of agriculture may be as lucrative as other employments, it will be an easier task to vindicate their pleasure and their importance. I need not dwell on that retirement, one of the purest enjoyments of this life, and the best preparation for the future, on healthy occupations, on that calmness of mind, on that high and noble spirit of manliness and independence naturally belong to that education. These are attractions which must have deep roots in the human heart, since they have in all times fascinated at once the imagination, and won the judgement of men. But I may be allowed to say that in this nation, agriculture is probably destined to attain its highest peculiar attraction,—the pure and splendid institution of their people have embodied the highest dreams of those high spirits, who in other times and other lands, have lamented or struggled against oppression; they have realized the fine conceptions which speculative men have imagined, which wise men have planned, or brave men vainly perished in attempting to establish. Their influence in reclaiming the lost dignity of man, and inspiring the loftiest feelings of personal independence, may be traced in every condition of our citizens; but as all objects, are more distinct by insulation, their effects are peculiarly obvious in the country.

The American farmer is the exclusive, absolute, uncontrolled proprietor of the soil. His tenure is not from government. The government derives its from him. There is above him nothing but God and the laws; no hereditary authority usurping the distinctions of personal genius; no established church spreading its dark shadow between him and heaven. His frugal government neither desires or dares to oppress the soil, and the altars of religion are supported only by the voluntary offerings of sincere piety. His pursuits, which no perversion can render injurious to any, are directed to the common benefit of all. In multiplying the bounties of Povidence in the improvement and embellishment of the soil, in the care of the inferior animals committed to his charge, he will find an ever varying and interesting enjoyment dignified by the union of the liberal studies, enlivened by the exercise of a simple and generous hospitality. His character assumes a loftier interest by its influence over the public liberty.

It may not be foretold to what dangers this country is destined, when its swelling population, its expanding territory, its daily complicating interests shall awaken the latent passions of men and reveal the vulnerable points of our institutions. But whenever these perils come, its most steadfast security, its unfading reliance, will be on that column of landed proprietors—the men of the soil and of the country.

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These men, rooted like their own forests, may yet interpose between the factions of the country, to heal, to defend, and to save.

**A Contrast.**

The Rev. Mr Carll, of North-Bridgewater, in an Address to the Plymouth County Agricultural Society, speaks of the relative advantages and disadvantages of different sections of our country, after the following manner:—

There is a bright and a dark side to everything, and every picture has its light and shade; when man is called upon to make his election, he finds that it is but a choice of difficulties at best. It is agreed that the Western farmer, from the mellowness and fertility of the soil, can cultivate his farm with less labor than he can here; he is exempted from the trouble of manuring his land, which is laborious and expensive, and his land produces abundantly; but from that very circumstance the produce is diminished in value. Here, on the contrary, you have a hard and sullen soil, requiring more labor to cultivate it producing perhaps but half the quantity, but selling for three or four times as much as in the other case. Now mark the difference, the more abundant the crop, the greater the labor required to gather and secure it; by the same rule, the less abundant the crop, the less the labor; so that the principal difference, as regards labor, appears to be, that here, you have to work hard at the *beginning* of the process, and there, at the *end*; here, the crop is comparatively small, but bears a good price; there, it is large, remote from market, and consequently of less value.

There is no room for murmuring or discontent in either situation, and he who has the elements of happiness within his own bosom, may find abundant reasons for gratitude and contentment, whether his lot be cast in the north or in the south, in the east or in the west. What a glorious country do we inhabit—of what vast extent—what variety of climate—how rich and various in its resources—we are a world within ourselves, combining all climates, all soils, all productions—the coffee and sugar of the West Indies, the tropical fruits and silks of Europe, the rice of Asia, the cotton of Egypt—together with the arts, the manufactures, the enterprise, the skill, the ingenuity of man, in his highest state of civilization. The treasures of the sea and the hidden minerals of the earth are also ours.

The different sections and remote regions, by modern improvements in the arts of locomotion are brought into the neighborhood of each other, the products of one division are exchanged for those of another; the imports and manufactures of the east, for the growth of the west, the riches and skill of the north, for the precious products of the south. Thus the parts are bound together by a golden chain of mutual benefits into a beautiful whole, and the links that connect us are becoming more strongly cemented every day.

Let us then cultivate the spirit of content, let us respect the constitutional rights and privileges of every section, and rally round that banner, waiving in graceful folds from the summit of the capitol, bearing on its ample ground a constellation, the emblem of light, of union, and of that civil and religious liberty, man's rightful inheritance, which can only be duly appreciated by a virtuous and intelligent people.

Every discovery of mineral treasure, disclosed by the labors of the geologist, every new application of science to art, every new channel of communication, is immediately made known through the press, becomes common property, and tends to equalize advantages.

**Agriculture.**

We observe with astonishment and regret the conclusive evidence which appears in every direction, that the business of agriculture does not receive the attention due to it in this country, but is treated with absolute neglect, compared with other pursuits. This ought not to be, and the inhabitants of this country will yet learn that they have committed a gross error by abandoning the cultivation of the soil for less independent and more precarious modes of obtaining a livelihood.

Who has ever before heard of such a state of things as now exits here? We have a soil as fertile as any that the sun ever shone upon, a country almost boundless in extent, and so cheap that any man may purchase a farm with the proceeds of a few months' labor, yet we are actually importing, for consumption, immense quantities of agricultural products from foreign countries! A people, thinly scattered over a land unequalled in fertility and exhaustless in its resources, are buying their bread at enormous prices from countries so overburthened with inhabitants, that political economists have feared that the earth would fail to produce sufficient to support them. Such an extraordinary and unnatural circumstance should excite attention and awaken the inquiry as to its cause.

The fault as we have seen, is not in the soil: nor

is the country overrun with inhabitants. It is therefore evident that the *cultivation* of the soil is neglected, otherwise we should be exporting instead of importing agricultural products. But it is easier to show the fact, that agriculture is neglected, than to find a sufficient reason for such neglect. We apprehend, however, that it will be found to spring in a great measure from the same causes which have produced much evil in this country and the bitter fruits of which we are now reaping. The first and chief of these causes is the inordinate thirst for wealth which prevades every class of society, and induces men to abandon their legitimate business to engage in some wild hazardous speculation with the hope of becoming suddenly rich. It is also too often the case that the farmer becomes tired of the moderate and gradual accumulation of property by the products of his land, and leaves the cultivation of it to engage in the business of commerce or manufactures. He finds out his egregious mistake when it is too late. The property he had accumulated is often squandered and lost in consequence of his ignorance of new business, and he again sighs for the cheerful and independent mode of life which he has abandoned, when it is out of his power to resume it. We have in our mind numberless instances of this kind, where industrious and prosperous farmers have been lured to their ruin by being induced to lay aside the implements of husbandry, and engage in the universal scramble after sudden wealth.

There is another great error prevalent upon this subject, and that is, the business of agriculture is generally looked upon as less respectable than that of commerce, manufactures, or the professions; and wealthy farmers, instead of teaching their sons their own business, most usually transform them into merchants, lawyers, doctors, or dominees. This is all wrong. Agriculture is the very back-bone of all business, the main-spring of all wealth, and should be regarded as a profession of the highest respectability. It gives those engaged in it a feeling of independence, genuine nobleness without ostentation, honor, honesty and firmness, well calculated to perpetuate the free institutions of our happy country. The truth of the eloquent penagyrics of the ancients upon this employment, may be more easily realized here than in any other country upon earth. We confidently hope to see public opinion speedily righting itself upon this subject, and to find people seeking their permanent interests, and advancing the prosperity and glory of our wide domain, by engaging more generally in this healthful, honest and independent business. —*N. Y. Sun.*

### Great Performance.

Major J. W. Marston of Falmouth, lately raised a barn frame 48 feet long 24 feet wide, of the usual height, timber of the common size, and without the least aid of any person or any machinery. He performed the labor in two days. We seldom hear of an individual accomplishing a task of so much difficulty; and we think that such skill in planning, and energy and perseverance in executing so arduous an undertaking, reflects great credit on the performer. Mr Marston is of moderate size and we should suppose that he possesses no more than common strength. The reader will be anxious to know his method of raising, and we will describe it as it may be useful in cases where there are but few hands.

He first put together what is commonly called a *band*, being all the timber of one end, with the upper end of the posts about three feet above the sills; he then fastened the foot of the posts with ropes, and with his shoulder raised the other end of the posts and blocked them up, so that they were about six feet high; he then fastened a raising shore to the middle of the upper girt which is abont 3 feet from the top of the posts, and with this shore he raised it to its proper place, the shore at the bottom holding it as it was raised; he fastened this band by ropes extending each way from the top girt; he then raised another band in the same manner almost to its proper place, leaving room to put in the girts and braces, which he put into the first band and placed the other ends so that they would enter the other posts, and fastened them there, and then he raised the second band to its proper place and pinned the two bands together, which secured them; he then proceded to raise the other bands and secured them in the same manner till all were up. He then put on the plates, one of which was the whole length; he first put one end on a lower girt, and run it endwise, keeping that end elevated so that it run on an upper girt, and when he had moved it so far that it would poise over the girt, he fastened up the upper end by a stick of timber laid across on the top of the posts; and he continued to run it forward till it had passed the last girt over it, then he moved it on the girts in the other direction till it was in the proper place to be rolled up to the top of the posts; the braces which extended from the top of the posts to the girts served as *skids* on which he rolled up the plate, and he then canted it on the posts; the plates being on, he got the rafters up and framed a pair together, they having a girt between them, the top ends resting on a stick of timber lieing across the plates; he fastened the lower ends, which went on the plate with a crow foot with ropes, and having raised the upper ends about a foot, and blocked them up, he fastened a raising shore to them, extending to the ground, by which he raised the rafters, which he secured by ropes; he then raised another pair, and then put on a purloin or rib to secure them; so he proceeded till the whole was finished. All of which was accomplished without any ardent spirit. We believe that none can beat this, and but very few would attempt to equal it.—*Y. Far.*

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The subjoined article, whose *heading* would lead one to think that it related altogether to paintings, is a treatise on *Mulberries*, and without according in all the views of the writer, we give it to the public, reserving to ourself the right of speaking to it hereafter.—*Farmer and Gardener.*

*From the Northamton Courier*

### Elegant Chinese Paintings.

A gentleman who has long been engaged in the Canton trade, often visited that city, and had opportunities to become acquainted with the manner and habits of Chinese, has lately visited Northampton to become acquainted with the state of the silk culture here, from whose scrutinising observations made in China, much valuable information has been obtained. The same gentleman loaned the subscriber a volume of splendid Chinese Paintings, which confirms our practice and culture of the Chinese mulberry as correct and proper. These paintings represent the men, women and children in their national costume, at work—commencing with gathering the mulberry seed, cleaning the same, and then preparing the ground,—sowing the seed, gathering the foliage, feeding the worms, heading or cutting down the plants to 2 or 4 inches above the ground, as WE DO, and every process of their management, to making up of the silk into skeins, as WE IMPORT IT, and the further process of winding the silk upon spools.

There are 28 plates, illustrating the different processes.—The out door men laborers are dressed in plain loose frocks and trowsers, descending to the knees; some of the men with bare feet and legs; others with sandals and wooden shoes, adapted to their respective work of getting the plants in forwardness for feeding the worms. The women, boys and girls are employed in gathering leaves, feeding the worms, reeling silk, &c. Some of the ladies have elegant LOOSE dresses, of various brilliant colors, ornamented with wide embroidery around the neck and sleeves. The upper dress is loose, of gay colors, the sleeves large, and extend a little above the elbow; and all the females are dressed in PANTALETTES of various colors, each in contact with the upper dress—the countenance fair, delicate and intelligent, eyes downcast; most of the females have small feet and gay sandals; the hair neatly dressed, ornamented, and all wear bracelets above the wrists. As the original plates can be seen by only a few, it may be desirable to hear some description of each print, for the gratification of those who take some interest in the culture of silk.

The plates make it evident, that although the Chinese sow the mulberry seed BROAD CAST as we do small grain, yet they do not let it long grow in that state, nor do they cut it off (as we do grass) for feeding worms, but they transplant it into settings or hills like our Indian corn, and that it does not grow more than three or four feet in height, and is cut down every year to keep it in a shrubby state. Experience has convinced us that this procedure of taking off the tops to 2 or 4 or even 6 inches above the root, every autumn, and covering the stump with earth, is the best way to secure the Chinese mulberry against the severity of winter, and is also a sure method to multiply the number of trees and increase the quantity of foliage.

Some people have thought that the Chinese mulberry seed grew on trees of some height, like white mulberry (and on this account have been desirous of procuring large trees;) so far as we have had experience this is not the fact with the Canton mulberry, altho' it may he true of Manilla & other varieties.

The first plate represents the seed growing very near the ground, like the Canton mulberry from the seed of which I imported and sowed in 1834. In 1835, one of the seedling trees being laid down, the layer sprouts produced full size mulberries, too late, however, for ripening. The same root this year, 1836, grew branches which were again laid down, and the layer sprouts, when 4 or 5 inches high, again had mulberries formed, which rippened in season for sowing, from which seed I have two small trees carefully preserved, to ascertain its character. After the seed had been gathered, the SAME LAYER SPROUTS again, with others, and plump mulberries formed, but were destroyed by birds or fowls. Both crops were formed only a little above the root or foot of the layer tree, and some of them rested on the ground. I have neither seen or heard of any other of the Canton plants producing seed; but what has already occured here, in the formation and product of seed, together with the representation and the gathering of the seed and the discription of the Chinese paintings, confirms the opinion, that the CANTON MULBERRY, so called here, is the same as used in China for feeding worms. Experiments have been made this year in feeding worms with the Black, White, Manilla, and the Canton Multicaulis, and the worms evidently preferred the Canton either of the others. If any one is possessed of the evidence that the Manilla Multicaulis is ever used in China for feeding worms, he is requested to make it known. The first notice we have of it is, that it was cultivated at Manilla as a TREE OF ORNAMENT. After being introduced into France, it, was found that the silk worm would feed upon the Manilla, as they had done upon the white or black mulberry, in Europe or America. Last year a Manilla multicaulis of 6 or 7 feet in height produced a few seed, which grew several feet from the ground. The seed was planted and two or three of them vegetated and were preserved through the winter, and set out in spring 1836, and grew about 2 1-2 feet. The leaves were in shape and size very different from the original tree, and the leaves not more than one quarter as large as the leaves of the parent stock. It may be noted, that a number of old white mulberry trees which have annually borne seed twenty or thirty years, grew within about forty rods of the Manilla multicaulis; the Multicaulis was exposed last winter on the southerly side of a building, and this year the dead tops have been taken off, but has not produced any seed, or even borne a blossom.

D. STEBBINS.

*From the New York Cultivator.*

**Sheep Husbandry.**

Sir—Much has been said on the different breeds of Sheep, and much more is required to induce farmers to improve their flocks.—I am perfectly satisfied from personal obrervation, that an erroneous system is pursued in the management of these valuable animals, and am thoroughly convinced the generality of farmers do not know their true value; but in directing their attention altogether to the fineness of wool, such as that produced from the Saxony and Merino, (and in these cases being generally governed by the quality without a due regard to the quantity,) they seldom take into consideration the carcase, which should be the most profitable, and in a good breed of sheep will prove so. Though I am not sufficiently sanguine to believe my opinion to be infallible, still I think I may advance some ideas, that better judgment can improve and excite its endeavors, where it is now silent. Should I succeed, the benefit the farmer will derive from it will afford me ample recompense.

In the first place, I cannot see why the Saxony and Merino sheep are more generally kept than any other breed, their quality of mutton being, in my opinion, far inferior, and their carcase lighter and more shapeless. I have asked many farmers who raised them, what was their inducement for doing so, and have found no other reason assigned than the fineness of their wool. They generally keep their wether sheep five or six years, as they produce the greatest quantity and the finest quality, though they seldom cut more than three or four pounds, and often less than two and a half, and this comprises their profit. They frequently lose them, in consequence of their weak constitution, and their inability to stand the hard winters. If I am mistaken in these sheep, I shall be much obliged to some experienced breeder of this kind, to correct me, and advance the credit they deserve, and do justice to their good qualities.

I think the South Down is a more profitable breed. Their quality of mutton is very superior; they feed much faster, put more inside than out, and are of a more hardy nature, if not bred too fine. I conceive the Hampshire Downs to be more profitable than the South Downs, and a stronger constitution. They will produce more mutton and wool; and about equal in quality.

The Bakewell or Cotswold sheep, I value more highly than either. They will produce more wool and mutton than any other sheep, and feed faster, (i. e. fatten sooner,) the quantity will make up the deficiency in quality, and give them the decided preference. On these sheep a man can exercise his judgment, as they possess every point sheep can, when good ones and well bred.

There is as much difference in the same breed of sheep as between two distinct breeds, and it requires a farmer's most attentive judgment in every point, to enable him to select a good ram. There is more nicety in selecting this animal, than the farmer generally imagines, and if done injudiciously, his flock is certain to degenerate. If the male is not well bred, his stock is sure to be uneven; in some instances, when the ewe is well descended, her lamb may prove good, but the descendants of that lamb, if put to an ill-bred sheep, are certain to grow worse and I am sorry to say, this system is too frepuently pursued. It would be much better for a farmer to give a high price for a well bred sheep, than have a poor one for nothing. Let them be influenced by this spirit, and they will find the benefit of it. Those farmers that pursue the former course, are doing their country great injustice, and injure those breeders who study to improve. I have seen, in many instances, flocks of sheep descended from well bred ones, so much degenerated by this system, that a good judge could scarcely tell to what breed they belonged, and the owner, when offering them for sale, would represent them as first rate sheep, and bred from the flock of a noted breeder. As long as this principle is sanctioned, there will be no excitement to improve, as it is discouraging to a good breeder to meet with such treatment, when he has been earnestly striving to excel. I appeal to sense and reason, whether there is any encouragement for a superior breeder, in such a case. Another practice exists, of men going to vessels, as they arrive from Europe, and buying the remainder of the captain's ewes, perhaps the culls of a flock of no note, and introduced here as imported sheep, from a good flock; and among many farmers, the name of an imported sheep is quite sufficient, and they do not examine the good and bad points they possess; but if he is large and looks well to the eye, it is quite satisfactory; and this is a very mistaken notion. The eye cannot accurately tell a good sheep from a bad one; a fine looking sheep often when examined by the hand, proves exactly opposite from expectation.

Here I cannot avoid mentioning a circumstance that came under my observation, of rather a laughable nature. A farmer, in selecting a ram, had three or four put together, and stooped down to see which was the tallest; his decision was expressed in the following words—*I think this is the tallest sheep; I will take him*—and according to my judgment, he selected the worst sheep in the lot. Tho' I thus state my opinion candidly, I do not mean to do so offensively, as it is my earnest wish to see the farmer prosper, and any thing I can do to promote his happiness and welfare, will always be to me a gratification.

Having condemned the system pursued, I will advance one that, in my judgment, would answer better. I would purchase as many ewes as I thought my farm would support, of that breed my taste dictated, and they should be the best my judgment could procure, and my purse sanction. I would then purchase the best ram of the same breed, I could possibly meet with, and lose no time in search of him; when once procured, he would serve for the same ewes three or four years, till his own stock came into the flock; and if a hich price is paid for him, and his life spared, he will be sure to earn it. I am undecided whether I should sell my wether lambs, or keep them till two years old, but should be governed by my means of keeping. I would wean my lambs about the middle of July, keep the ewes, ewe lambs and wethers separate, and as soon as the ewe lambs were fit to take the ram, (which would be in eighteen months,) would procure a good ram for them that was no relation, and then select as many of the worst as I thought proper, and take as many of the worst of my ewes as I put of the best yearlings in, and sell them to such farmers as I thought would do them justice. Though the worsts, let them be attentive, and they will improve; but I would always have them leave in lamb, so that the first descendants might be genuine. When a farmer has pursued this course a few years, his whole flock will be nearly eqnal, and when arrived to this purity, is worthy to be called a good one; and if his land and mind are cultivated equally well, he may be one of the happiest beings on earth, and ought to be much respected.

I will refer those who wish to see good flocks, to some I have seen:—Mr Roach, of Butternuts, has a flock of superior South Downs, and according to my judgment, are selected with care, and from a first rate flock. Mr Bement, Three Hills Farm, near Albany, has a flock of Hampshire Downs, that I think very good, and well descended. Mr Adcock, of Gilbertsville, has a flock of Cotswold or Bakewells, that I think superior; and Mr Dunn, of Albany, a flock of the same kind, that I think well bred and very superior, and still improving, as the sheep he was using this season weighed 296 pounds, and every point equal in proportion. These flocks I think worthy the farmer's notice, and I would advise those who study to improve theirs, to go and examine for themselves. There may be others that deserve credit, but they have not come under my observation.

One thing I would advise all breeders to be cautious in, and that is, to keep their breeds distinct, and if two breeds are kept on one farm, it is almost impossible to do so. Should any wish to argue the point, I shall be most happy and pleased to do it.

I am, sir, yours respectfully,

A SUBSCSIBER.

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*From the Genesee Farmer.*

**Great Snow of October 5th, 1836.**

Storms, either of snow, wind, or rain, which by their severity, duration, or extension, excite general attention, serve as landmarks in the science of meteorology, and go far to establish the general principles which govern such mutations of the weather and seasons. This is more certainly the case, when the storms are of a kind not belonging to the season, and may be looked upon as deviations from the usual course of atmospheric changes. Such was the snow storm of October 5th, which in severity and extension is wholly without a parallel in the history of our country. We have been at some pains in collecting some of the facts relating to it, in different parts of our country, and can only express our regret that we have not the means of making it more complete.

Great advantages would result to science if the editors of newspapers in all sections of the country, when noticing events of general interest, would be more particular in their statements, and in their details. For instance, we have before us journals from various and remote sections of the Union, in which the storm of the 5th was noticed by the editors. They in general merely state its kind, whether of rain or snow; but the time of its commencement, the direction of the wind during its continuance, and the time of its cessation, are not often mentioned. These things in all such cases are very desirable, and if attended to, would, by the mass of facts that would be thus accumulated, lead to important results. Newspapers, if properly conducted, would be the telegraphs of science, the avant couriers in all the departments of useful knowledge; now they are too frequently the mere ministers of a corrupt and vitiated public taste in polite literature, and vehicles of party political slander.

It is believed that Dr. Franklin was the first to advance the idea, that storms always commence first in the quarter opposite to the prevailing current of air; or in other words, that a north-east storm begins in the south-west, and vice versa. This opinion is unquestionably correct, where the current of wind sets for some hours in one direction, as is usually the case in our great storms from the north or south, though it is not always observed where sudden storms arise, occasioned by local rarefactions or condensations of the atmosphere. The south-east gales which blow with such violence in our country at the equinoxes, are always felt sooner at Boston than at New York, and commence earlier at the latter place than at Baltimore; and it frequently requires twenty-four hours or more, for a gale to retrograde, as it were, in this way, from Boston to the Gulf of Mexico. An attentive observation of dates would show, that in this respect, as in most others where the theory depended on a correct deduction from his own common sense, but profound interrogations of nature, the philosophy of Franklin was right; and the snow storm of October 5th will not have a tendency to impeach his reasoning.

The winds from the north and the north-east, during the present season, whatever may have been the cause, have been much colder than usual. Whenever the current of air set from those quarters, the thermometer sunk as rapidly as if in the vicinity of an ice mountain, and its chilling effect was felt by vegetation of every kind. Snow early showed itself in many parts of the country, and where this did not reach, hard frosts and cold rains were the substitutes. For two or three days preceding the 4th, the weather had been fair, but cold, with winds northwardly. On the 4th it rained at intervals during the day, but cleared away about 4 o'clock, wind W. of N. The snow commenced falling between 3 and 4 o'clock on the morning of the 5th, and continued to fall rapidly until 10 or 11 in the evening. None fell during the 6th, though the weather was cloudy. The depth of snow on the morning of the 6th did not vary much from two feet, but it decreased rapidly. These remarks will be understood as applying to appearances at the residence of the writer in the southern part of Onondaga county, some five or six hundred feet above the Otisco lake, at a distance of two and a half miles, and about a thousand feet above the Erie canal at Syracuse, and the level country of the Seneca and Oneida rivers. The quantity which fell was nearly the same through the whole range of high land from Utica to Chatauque county.

In Onedia, Madison, and Onondaga counties, it began to snow from 3 to 4 o'clock Wednesday morning; at Lima, Ontario county, at 8 o'clock, and in the south part of Orleans county at 10 o'clock the same morning. On the south margin of Lake Ontario no snow fell—all was there rain; but in proceeding from the lake south, snow was soon found, and it continued to increase until the line that divides the waters of the Susquehanna

from those of the lakes was reached. This shows that the northern current of air not only was charged with vapor in passing over the Ontario, but that its temperature was raised by the same process. To the condensation produced when these masses of vapor came in contact with the hills to the south, caused by their lower temperature, may be attributed the greater quantity of snow which fell in the range of this aerial current, than farther to the east, where the influence of the lake was not felt. On the highlands of New Hampshire, Vermont, and the county of Berkshire, in Mass. snow fell on Wednesday, but not in such quantities as in West New York. At Worcester it only rained. At New York there was only rain —the snow storm did not cross the highlands. The whole range of the Alleganies were covered as far south as the south line of Virginia; in Loudon county in that state the snow was 5 inches deep; and on Tuesday morning some snow was observed at Yorkville, South Carolina. Farther south in Georgia and Alabama, the only indication of the Snow at the north were severe frosts, which materially injured the later crops of cotton. At Hollidaysburg, where the Pennsylvania canal and railroad crosses the Allegany ridge, the snow was 26 inches deep, and the cars were obstructed in their passage. At Wheeling on the Ohio the rain and snow began to fall on the 4th, changing on the 5th to snow alone. This is the only instance we have noticed in which snow fell on Tuesday. At Maunch Chunk it began Tuesday evening, and on Broad Mountain was 15 inches deep on Wednesday. In Maryland it began Tuesday evening, and continued till Wednesday forenoon, when it was 10 inches deep on the Sideling Hills. In no instance have we heard of snow's falling on the 6th, except near the head waters of the Allegany, and in Cattarragus and Allegany counties in this state, where it snowed with violence a considerable part of the day.

As usual in our north and north-east storms, the gale on the coast was severe, and during the greater part of its continuance blew from the E. and N. E., making sad work with shipping, and causing great loss of property and lives. It would seem as if storms that in the interior of New York come from the N. E. and N., commencing in the E., become deflected to the south-west by the valley of the St. Lawrence, and finally to the south by the Allegany ranges in the interior; thus making an immense sweep to the west, south-west, and south. In such storms it is a well known fact, that on the coast, the wind continues to blow from the east long after it is felt in all its violence in the interior directly from the north. It may be remarked that the snow of the 5th, in its progress and in its greatest quantity, occupied nearly the same ground of the great snow storm of last January.

One remarkable trait of the storm of the 5th, was the effect it produced on fruit trees, and wood lands generally. On orchards and fruit trees of other kinds, the damage in West New York was immense. The snow fell very rapidly and quite damp, and the trees covered with foliage were soon loaded with a weight which they were unable to support. In the native forests we saw trees stripped from the top to the bottom of their branches, almost as cleanly as could have been done by the axe, and it will be years before the orchards lose all traces of its ravages. After the storm we noticed some curious facts respecting its operations at different heights. On the immediate margin of the cluster of small lakes that reach from the Oneida to the Canandaigua, comparatively little damage was done to the trees, the water in the lakes raising the temperature of the air so much, that the snow melted mostly as it fell. At the height of 200 to 400 feet it was still wet and damp, but only enough to load and lie well; consequently at this height the greatest damage was done. At greater elevations the air was so cold, and the snow so dry, that at times it blustered as in the winter, and the greater part was at times driven from the trees, and their branches mostly saved. W. G.

### Chinese Indigo.

Gen. Tallmadge has just returned from a year's tour upon the old continent; during which he has devoted much time to the collection of facts, &c., to improve our arts and agriculture. His letters, which have been published in the Journal of the American Institute, abound with interesting matters upon these topics. He has brought with him some seeds of a plant called the Chinese Indigo, (the *Poligonum tinctorium* of botanists,) which is extensively employed in China for dying cloth of a beautiful blue or green, and has kindly promised us a portion of them, with a view of giving them a trial in this latitude. This plant is a biennial, grows two feet high, flowers in July and August, and is represented by Loudon as rather tender.—But, under the direction of a Russian agricultural society, it has been grown in Georgia and other districts on the northeast borders of the Baltic sea, as cold a climate as ours, chiefly as yet for its seed, with a view of multiplying it, and it is believed will be found adapted to our climate. What comparison it will bear with woad, as a dye weed, the mode of using it as a dye, or of extracting the coloring matter, and the manner of cultivating it, are matters of which we are as yet ignorant.–*Cultivator.*

THE OSAGE ORANGE, (*Maclura aurantica.*)—We have noticed several articles in the public journals, commending the culture of this plant as affording suitable food for the silk worm. We have had this plant in our grounds eight or ten years, and the stems have been invariably killed by the winter. It is more tender than the Morus multicaulis, and is of slow growth; its fruit resembles, in appearance, the black walnut, and is altogether worthless. We state these facts to guard our readers against expending time and money in attempting to cultivate it for feeding silk-worms. *Ib.*

FOREIGN WHEAT.—There was imported, to the port of Baltimore alone, between the first of January and first of November of the current year, 164,408 bushels of foreigh wheat, and an equal amount, probably, to the ports of New York and Philadelphia. It may be deemed good fortune that these supplies of foreign bread stuffs have come to our timely aid; but it is bad fortune that we need them. The calamities resulting from bad seasons, though not to be averted, may be sensibly lessened, by intelligent industry and forethought; and the fact that a nation of farmers are now in a measure dependent upon foreign countries for bread, should humble us, and admonish us, that we lack either in intelligence to guide our labors, or have not applied the latter with sufficient diligence. *Ib.*

### THE CONSTELLATIONS.

"A single star
Is rising in the east, and from afar
Sheds a most tremulous lustre: silent night
Doth wear it like a jewel on her brow;
But see! it motions with its lovely light,
Onwards and onwards thro' those depths of blue,
To its appointed course stedfast and true."

### Cassiopeia.

Cassiopeia is represented on the celestial map, in regal state, seated on a throne, or chair, holding in her hand the branch of a palm tree. Her head and body are seen in he milky way. Her foot rests upon the Arctic Circle, upon which her chair is placed. She is surrounded by the chief personages of her royal family. The King, her husband, is on her right hand, Perseus, her son-in-law, on her left—and Andromeda, her daughter, just above her.

This constellation is situated 26° N. of Andromeda, and midway between it and the North Polar Star. It may be seen from our latitude at all hours of the night, and may be traced out at almost any season of the year. It is on our meridian the 22d of November, but does not sensibly change its position for several days; for it must be remembered that the apparent motion of the stars, becomes slower, as they approximate to the pole.

Cassiopeia is a beautiful canstellation oontaining fifty-five stars, visible to the naked eye; of which five are of the third magnitude, and so situated as to form, with one or two smaller ones, the figure of an inverted chair. Caph, in the garland of the chair, is almost exactly in the equinoctial colure, 30° N. of Alpheratz, with which, and the Polar, Star, it forms a straight line. Caph is the westernmost star of the bright cluster. Shedir in the Breast, is the uppermost star of the five bright ones, and is 5° S. E. of Caph: the other three bright ones, forming the chair, are easily distinguished, as they meet the eye, at the first glance.

It is generally supposed that the North Polar Star, is the real immoveable pole of the heavens; but this is a mistake; it is so near the true pole that it has obtained the name of the North Polar-Star; but it is more than a *degree and a half* from it, and revolves about the true pole every twenty-four hours, in a circle whose radius is 1° 35s.

There is another important fact in relation to the position of Caph; it is equidistant from the pole and exactly opposite another remarkable star in the square of the Great Bear, on the other side of the pole. It also serves to mark a spot in the starry heavens rendered memorable as being the place of a lost star. Two hundred and fifty years ago, a bright star shone 5° N. N. E. of Caph, where now is a dark void!

On the 8th of November, 1572, Tycho Brahe and Cornelius Gemma saw a star in the Constellation Cassiopeia, which became all at once so brilliant, that it surpassed the splendor of the brightest planets, and might be seen even at noon-day! Gradually this great brilliancy diminished until the 15th of March, 1573, when without moving from its place, it became utterly extinct. Its color during this time, exhibited all the phenomena of a prodigious flame—first it was of a dazzling white then of a reddish yellow, and lastly of an ashy paleness, in which its light expired. It is impossible, says Mrs. Sommerville, to imagine any thing more tremendous than a conflagration that could be visible at such a distance. It was seen for sixteen months. This phenomenon alarmed all the astronomers of the age who beheld it; and many of them wrote dissertations concerning it.

About 6° N. W. of Caph, the telescope reveals to us a grand nebula of small stars, apparently compressed into one mass, or single blaze of light, with a great number of loose stars about it.

Cassiopeia was the wife of Cepheus, king of Æthiopia, and mother of Andromeda. She was a queen of matchless beauty, and seemed to be sensible of it: for she boasted herself fairer than Juno, the sister of Jupiter, or the Nereides, a name given to the sea nymphs. This so provoked the ladies of the sea, that they complained to Neptune of the insult, who sent a frightful monster to ravage her coast, as a punishment for her insolence. But the anger of Neptune and the jealousy of the nymphs were not thus appeased. They demanded, and it was finally ordained, that Cassiopeia should chain her daughter Andromeda, whom she tendenly loved, to a desert rock on the beach, and leave her exposed to the fury of this monster. She was thus left, and the monster approached, but just as he was going to devour her, Perseus killed him. —*Germantown Telegraph.*

### Curious Discovery.

In 1834, a subterranean Indian village was discovered in Nacooche valley, Georgia, by gold miners, whilst excavating a canal for the purpose of washing gold. The depth to which it is covered varies from seven to nine feet; some of the houses are imbedded in a stratum of rich aurifferous gravel. They are thirty-four in number, built of logs from six to ten inches in diameter, and from ten to twelve feet in length. The walls are from three to six feet in height, forming a contiguous line or street of three hundred feet. The logs are hewed and notched as at the present day. The land beneath which they were found, was covered, at its first settlement by the whites, with a heavy growth of timber, denoting the great antiquity of those buildings, and the powerful cause which submerged them. Cane baskets and fragments of earthen-ware were found in the rooms. The houses are situated from fifty to one hundred yards from the principal channel of the creek. A great number of curious specimens of curious workmanship have been found in situations which preclude the possibility of their having been moved for more then a thousand years; among these, a half a crucible, of capacity of nearly a gallon, ten feet below the surface, and immediately below a large oak tree, which measured five feet in diameter, and must have been four or five hundred years old. The soil is diluvial, or what may be termed table land. The stratum of quartz gravel in which the vessel was imbedded, is about two feet in thickness, resting on decomposed chlorit. It is not difficult to account for the deposite of those substances in an alluvial soil, for the hills are generally very high and precipitous, and from the immense quantity of rain which falls, the streams are swollen to great height, sweeping every thing with them, and frequently forming a deposite of several feet in thickness in a season. A vessel resembling a double

mortar was found in Duke's Creek, about five inches in diameter, and the excavation on each side nearly an inch in depth, basin-like, and perfectly polished. It was made of quartz, which had been semi-transparent, but had become stained with the iron which abounds in quantity in all the country. In the bottom of each basin was a small depression, half an inch in depth, and about the same in diameter. What its use could have been, is difficult to conjecture. The high finish, and its exact dimensions, induce the belief that it is the production of a more civilized people than the present race of Indians.—*Family Mag.*

## Summary.

### CALAMITOUS FIRE.

*The General Post Office, the City Post Office, the Patent Office and all its Contents* were destroyed by fire on Thursday morning. They were all under one roof in a large brick edifice erected many years ago in the central part of the city of Washington. We abridge the following account from the National Intelligencer. The alarm of fire was given by a Messenger, who usually sleeps in the room connected with the City Post Office. The Clerks had been at work, assorting the Mails, until half past two o'clock. Not long after three o'clock the messenger was roused from slumber by the smell of smoke. Opening the door of the City Post Office, he perceived a dense smoke, without any visible appearance of fire. He gave the alarm instantly, first rousing one of the Clerks, who slept in a back room adjoining the Post Office, and who passed along the whole of the long room through the smoke, hearing the fire cracking, but being able to *see* nothing. The watchmen in the body of the building, had perceived nothing of the smoke, until they, also, were alarmed.

The hour of the night being one at which the whole world is buried in the deepest sleep, it was found almost impossible to spread the alarm of fire, and it was full half an hour before the alarm bells were rung, and more than that time before an engine or a bucket of water could be commanded. The fire had its own way, and was at last seen in the cellar immediately under the delivery window of the City Post Office, followed shortly afterwards by flames from the windows of the latter, and within five minutes afterwards, by flames from the roof, the fire having crept up along the stair-cases to the top of the building before it broke out below. In little more than an hour the whole interior of the building and its contents were destroyed. The books of the General Post Office were all, or nearly all saved; but a mass of papers, &c. belonging to the office, were destroyed. Not any thing was saved from the Patent Office. As to the origin of the fire, nothing seems to be known of it except that it was in a cellar in which pine wood and coal were stowed, all of which were probably in a state of ignition before the fire disclosed itself to the eye. Both Houses of Congress have taken steps, thro' Committees, to investigate it, and in one House with power to send for persons and papers. Of all the loss of papers and property, that which is most to be regretted (because irrepairable) is that of the whole of the great repository of models of machines in the Patent Office. The mouldering ashes now only remain of that collected evidence of the penetration, ingenuity, and enterprise which peculiarly distinguish the descendants of Europe in the Western World.—*Boston Trans.*

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*Receipts and expenditures for* 1836.—The balance in the Treasury on the 1st of January last was $26,749,803. The *receipts* for 1836 are estimated at $47,691,808, of which the receipts from Customs for the the first three quarters have been $17,523,151, and the receipts from lands $20,948,029. —The expenditures for 1836 are ascertained and estimated at $21,435,032, of which the payments for the military service (including fortifications,) during the three first quarters have amounted to $13,010,061.

Deducting the expenditures of the year, ascertained and probable, from the receipts, the balance which will be in the Treasury on the first of January, 1837, is estimated at $43,005,669, and, deducting the "unavailable funds," of $1,080,000, leaving the "available balance" $41,925,669. [This does not include the balance to the credit of the Post Office Department at the end of the year, estimated at $513,920.]

*Revenue and Expenditures for* 1837.—The receipts are estimated at follows: Customs, $16,500,000; Lands, $5,000,000; Bank Stock and Miscellaneous, $2,500,000. The expenditures (including $1,000,000 for usual excess of appropriations beyond estimates) are estimated at $26,775,831.

*Imports and Exports.*—The Imports during the year ending 30th Sept. 1836, are astertained at $173,540,000, shewing an increase, compared with the preceding year, of $23,654,258. The Exports during the same period are ascertained and estimated at $121,789,000, of which $101,105,000 were domestic products, and the residue foreign, exhibited an increase, compared with the preceding year, of $35,423, and an amount exceeding the average of the last three years by $5,829,150.

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*Release of Santa Anna!*—The schr. Texas arrived at New Orleans on the 12thh inst. brings positive information that Santa Anna was set at liberty by President Houston, on the 26th of November last, and that he had set out for Nachitoches, on his way to Washington city.

*Mexico.*—By an arrival in ten day from Tampico at New Orleans, we have the following important intelligence as to the movements of the Mexican Army.

The expedition against Texas appears to have commenced its march, and was proceeding towards Matamoras, whence it will bend its course towards the seat of war.

Conflicting statements are made in different letters as to the numerical strength of the force intended to be employed in the service.

One letter says that 4000 men will leave the capital under the orders of Gen. Bravo, and be joined by 3000 more at San Luis Potosi.

Other letters assert the army to be 8000 strong, to be rapidly recruiting, and that it will march against Texas by way of Matamoras.

Measures are taking to fortify Tampico. This is in consequence of rumors that an expedition was fitting out at New Orleans, under Gen. Mexia with a view to land at Tampico and organize a revolutionary movement against the government.

A decree has been passed permitting the importation of provisions into Matamoras, and other places occupied by the army on the payment of 20 per cent duty, if duly imported in foreign bottoms —if by Mexican vessels, free of duty.

The articles of provisions allowed to be introduced are flour, rice, sugar of every kind, cocoa, chocolate, coffee, pepper, salted meat, smoked or pickled, peas, biscuit, beans bacon, Indian corn, lard, vermicelli, tocino, tea, &c.

*Texas.*—In a letter from Mexico, and extract from which is exhibited at the Merchants' Exchange, intelligence has been received that another hxpidition consisting of 7000 men under the command of Gen. Bravo, is to be sent into Texas. 4000 men had already started from the city of Mexico.—*New Orleans American.*

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### Sound Advice!

*A Word to the Wealthy.*—The close of the year is approaching, and is near at hand. It is the practice of many, and should be of all, to ballance their accounts at the end of the year, and see how they stand with the world, whether they have advanced or receded during the past year, and whether their expenses have been strictly within their income or otherwise; and also to pay off all their small bills. Tradesmen and mechanics expect their bills to be settled up at that time, and it is proper they should be, to enable them to pay off their own debts. A small amount of money will pay a very large amount of bills, by going from hand to hand. Now as the stream must commence somewhere, we would suggest to those who are not obliged to wait till others pay them before they can pay their own little debts, to call in and pay off alll their small bills BEFORE the first of Jauuary, so that with the money they thus put in circulation, others can meet their small bills by the first of the year.

Wealthy men know not the inconvenience they put others to, and the real embarassment they create, by allowing tradesmen and others to call several times for a small bill. To the first it is trifling; but to the latter it is often of importance; besidee this, the TIME lost in calling for the bill is a matter of some moment, being frequently equal to the amount of the bills. If then, those who are really able to pay their bills whenever presented, would adopt the rule of never allowing them to be called for a second time, they would do themselves much credit, and the community a great service.—*Salem Mercury.*

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A new plant has been discovered, growing on the shores of Hudson's Bay, and introduced into England, which is said to furnish a highly nutricious food for cattle. It shoots out new sprouts as often as it is cut, thus keeping up a fresh supply during the whole season; it flourishes best on cold, damp grounds, and stands the most rigorous winters. The English farmers regard it as a valuable acquisition. The name of the plant is not given. Its introduction into America would be a great blessing.—*Albany Ad.*

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*View of Religions.* The following table, compiled from the official publications of the several sects, is supposed to afford a fair view of the comparative strength of the different religious denominations in the United States. The figures do not of course indicate members in full communion, but the whole number of people who manifest a preference for this or that persuation.—*New Yorker.*

| | |
|---|---|
| Baptists, | 4,300,000 |
| Methodists, | 3,000,000 |
| Presbyterians, | 2,175,000 |
| Congregationalists, | 1,400,000 |
| Roman Catholics, | 800,000 |
| Episcopalians, | 600,000 |
| Universalists, | 600,000 |
| Lutherans, | 540,000 |
| Dutch Reformed, | 450,000 |
| Christians, | 300,000 |
| Friends, | 320,000 |
| Unitarians, | 180,000 |
| Mormonites, | 12,000 |
| Tunkers, | 30,000 |
| Shakers, | 6,000 |
| Moravians, | 5,575 |
| Swedenborgians, | 4,000 |

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*A bit of Romance.*—Last summer at Nahant, a young lady, lovely, accomplished and intellectual, the daughter of a wealthy house, and the favorite of her father, was smitten by the appearance of an elegant young man with no means, but of finished education, whose passion soon became kindred to that which inflamed her bosom. They met in secret—secretly they poured out their mutual protestations of undying love—in secret they took the irrevocable oath, that nothing should their "true love sever." But then their "cursed, crabbed relations!" He was poor--not worth a mill—she was rich at least in expectations. Her family was haughty—the father would be in a terrible passion —forbid all intercourse—shut up the way-ward girl—perhaps threaten to cut her off with less than a shilling—"remember her in his will," with a curse. To him the secret was not then revealed. The lovers parted. Pyramus was alone, and Thisbe was disconsolate. Matters could not long stand in this fashion. So posting to Boston, the young man presents himself before the nabob father, and offers for the *succession* to a place left vacant by the coachman. In this position he had frequent opportunities of mingling affections with his lady love.—Shortly there was a disappearance in the family! Off had gone coach and horses, their driver and the daughter. What could be the matter? An *elopement?* The horrid thought could hardly find admission—but soon forced its way to the conviction of the parents. Hot pursuit was made immediately; but all too late. The more than Gordian knot had been tied. Alexander himself could not have cut it. There was some "storming and some raving"—but all parties in no long time recovered their composure and it was agreed to let "pretty well alone." The errant parties were forgiven—and are now delightfully installed in elegant rooms at No. —— —— place, Boston, where they are receeiving the hearty congratulations, and playful chidings, of their numerous friends.—*Newburyport Herald.*

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☞ *A Ship Canal*, around the falls of St. Mary, is now projected by the citizens of Buffalo, so as to open the trade of Lake Superior, whose shores abound in inexhaustible mines of copper, and furnish also resources of the fur trade, now monopolized by the British Hudson Fur Company.

A committee of the New Hamqshire legislature has reported in favor of receiving the State's share of the surplus revenue, and distributing it among the towns according to population, under and obligation to refund it when called for. A minority of the committee have made a report recemmending the non-acceptance of the money, on the ground that the distribution is unconstitutional, and dangerous to the liberties of the people.

A discovery has been made in England, by which oil may be obtained in greater abundance from the seeds of vegetables, by applying to them diluted muriatic acid.

The Mexican mines, which have yielded for a century or two, on an average $10,000,000 per annum, are at present mostly owned in England.—John Bull, therefore, will keep a sharp look out for whatever relates to that country.

A Miss Bradstreet is undergoing an examination in Topsfield, charged with setting fire to the dwelling house of Mr. Rea, a few weeks since. The crime is capital.

"I know you of old," said one; "you had to run away from your country to save your neck."—"What of that!" was the reply; "*you* couldn't have done it *if the rope hadn't broke!*"

5000 bushels Wheat arrived at Philadelphia, on Monday, from Hamburg.

The Legislature of New Hampshire, for want of something else to do, talk of raising a committee to enquire into the expediency of taxing hogs, dogs and old bachelors—a well matched trio.

The citizens of Passadumkeag have had a meeting, and passed resolutions, recommending that a portion of Maine's share of the Surplus funds be appropriated towards a Rail Road, to run through Hallowell and Augusta to Bangor.

A citizen of Kennebunk has kept an account of the various *critters* that passed through that place this season, on their way to a western market.—There were 9226 horned cattle—7180 sheep—and 128 horses.

*Economy.*—Give eight or ten dollars for a Buffalo skin to throw over your horse, when a blanket that costs 75 cents will do just as well.

## Marriages.

In Monmouth, Mr. Greenleaf M. Blake to Miss Arabella Wilcox.

In North Yarmouth, Mr. Joseph Titcomb to Miss Joann L. Ring.

In Durham, Mr. Isaac Hopkins, of Brunswick, to Miss Julia Ann Day.

In Bradford, Dea. Stephen Martin to Miss Lydia Bowker.

In North Yarmouth, Mr. Daniel Herrick, of Gardiner, to Miss Emily Herrick, of N. Y.

## Deaths.

In Augusta, on the 21st inst. of typhus fever, Mr. Harrison N. Pike, printer, son of the late Dr. Pike of Litchfield, aged 25.

In New York, 19th inst. Mr. Samuel P. Dutton, of Bangor, aged 31.

In Gorham, Miss Almira S. daughter of Col. Samuel Stephenson, aged 27.

In Freeport, Mr. Loring Prout, aged 87. Major Benjamin Soule, late of Pownal, aged 66. A child of Mr. Joseph Mitchell, Jr. aged 8 months.

BRIGHTON MARKET.—Monday, Dec. 19.

*Reported for the Boston Advertiser.*

At market, 736 Beef cattle, 775 Sheep, and 125 Swine. 100 Beef cattle unsold.

Prices—Beef Cattle—Prices have declined considerably, and we reduce our quotations, viz: a few extra at $6 75; first quality at $6 a 6 50; second quality at $5 25 a 5 75; and third quality at $4 a 4 75.

Sheep—We noticed the sale of lots as follows: a lot ordinary at 1 67; also, lots at 2 25, 2 50, 275, 3 25, 3 50, and 3 75. A few fine cosset Weathers at $9 each.

Swine—In demand. A few hundred could readily have been sold. At retail, 9 and 10 for those weighing over 50, under 50, 10 and 11.

## Agricultural Notice.

Persons appointed by the Kennebec County Agricultural Society to examine the claims of competitors for premiums on Crops and award premiums thereon, are requested to meet at the School House in Winthrop Village, on Saturday the 7th day of January next, at 9 o'clock A. M. for the purpose of attending to the duties of that office.—Competitors will attend to establish their claims.

N. FOSTER, *Chairman of Standing Committee on Agriculture.*

## CAUTION!

### Beware of Counterfeits!!

IN consequence of the high estimation in which Morrison's Pills of the British College of Health, London, are held by the public, it has induced an innumerable host of unprincipled counterfeiters to attempt imitations, under the deceptive terms of "*Improved Hygean Medicine*," "*Original Hygean*," "*The Morrison Pills*, signed by Adna L. Norcross," &c. &c. thus to deceive the unwary. In consequence of many persons being seriously injured by taking the *counterfeit pills purchased at the Druggists' Stores*, the Agent has taken the precautionary mearure of having an extra yellow label fixed on each package, signed by the Agent of each State, and by his sub-Agents. Take notice, therefore, that none of the genuine Morrison Pills of the British College of Health, London, can be obtained at any Druggist Stores throughout the World; the Drug Stores being the principal source through which Counterfeiters can vend their spurious pills.

H. SHEPHERD MOAT,
General Agent for the U. S. America.

*As you value Health, be particular*, none are genuine unless *signed* by Rufus K. Page, Agent for the State of Maine, on the yellow label, and can be purchased of the following Sub-Agents.

RUFUS K. PAGE, Agent for the State of Maine.

Davis & Chadbourn, Portland; Geo. Marston, Bath; N. Reynolds, Lewiston; Ransom Bishop, Winthrop; Wm. H. Britton, Jr, Livermore; Geo. Gage, Wilton; Joseph Bullen, New Sharon; Richard K. Rice, Foxcroft; J. M. Moor & Co. and Z. Sanger, Waterville; Blunt & Copeland, Norridgewock; E. H. Neil, Milburn; P. H. Smith, Belfast; F. & J. S. Whitman, Bangor; Timothy Fogg, Thomaston; Wm. P. Harrington, Nobleborough; Henry Sampson, Bowdoinham; Gleason & Houghton, Eastport; Benj. Davis & Co. Augusta; Jocob Butterfield, East Vassalborough; S. & J. Eaton, Winslow; Addison Martin, Guilford; Otis Follet, Chandlerville; Rodney Collins, Anson; S. R. Folsom, Bucksport; Joel Howe, Newcastle; E Atwood & Co, Buckfield; Asa Abbot, Farmigton; Albert Read, Lincolnville; Joseph Hocky, Freedom; G. H. Adams, Saco; J. Frost, Kennebunk; J. G. Loring, North Yarmouth; Holt & Hoyt, Ripley; James Fillebrown Jr, Readfield; Wilson & Whitmore, Richmond; Dudley Moody & Co, Kent's Hill, Readfield; H. Rooth, Gardiner; W. & H. Steaens, Pittston; Edmund Dana, Wiscasset; Jeremiah O'Brien, Machias; James Reed, Hope. *Hallowell, Noaember 3d*, 1836.

## Notice.

All who are indebted to the subscriber are requested to call and settle before the 10th of February next and avoid cost; for after that date, if any are neglectful, they will be obliged to settle with an attorney. C. KNAPP.

N. B. Dr. T. L. Megquier who occupies my late residence, will attend (at present) to the settlement of my demands. C. KNAPP.

*Winthrop, Dec.* 20, 1836.

## Plaster Paris.

The subscriber has on hand 300 tons Ground Plaster Paris, put up in casks of 500 lbs. and 334 lbs. Also it will be sold by the bushel to those who wish. Farmers wishing to *secure* a supply of this valuable dressing for their farms will do well to call in the early part of the season.

ALEX. H. HOWARD.

*Hallowell, Dec.* 19, 1836. 3m.47.

COMFORTABLE AND ECONOMICAL

## Cooking Stoves.

The subscriber has for sale at his Store in Winthrop village, a great variety of Cooking Stoves of the most approved patterns—among which are—Moore's 2 sizes, Improved Rotary 3 sizes, (the use of which is its best recommendation,) Stewart's Premium, a beautiful pattern, 2 sizes—Spaulding's Rising Grate—Conical and Abbot's. Also, Conant's Patent Cook (adapted for burning long wood and particularly well designed for large kitchens, 2 sizes—James' and Gothic Cooks, 6 sizes. Also, the Improved Premium and Prophecy Cooking Stoves—Franklin and Close Stoves—Sheet Zinc, &c.&c.

ALSO "ON HAND,"

An extensive variety of Sweeds O. S. and Eng Iron—Plates—Shapes—Horse and Ox Nail Rods—Chain Iron from 1-4 to 1-2 inch—Cast Steel, tempered particularly for axes. *Also*, the common and extra cast German and Sweeds Steel.

*Real Turks Island and Liverpool Salt.*

100 *bushels of prime Flat CORN.*

Also, as usual, an assortment of *Fancy, Staple and Hard Ware Goods—Hollow Ware*, a prime assortment.

☞ All the above, and many other kinds of Goods not mentioned, are offered low, and very many a little cheaper than ever.

SAM'L CHANDLER.

*Wintorop, Dec.* 20, 1836.

## Tri-Weekly Age.

The Publishers of the Age propose to issue a paper three times a week during the next session of the Legislature. It will be printed on the half of a super-royal sheet in the usual form, and will contain about the same amount of *reading matter* as has been heretofore furnished by two numbers of the daily Age.

It will contain, in addition to reports of Legislative debates and proceedings, the news of the day, a synopsis of Congressional proceedings, and the original matter which appears in the weekly paper. It is intended that the reports of proceedings shall be full and accurate, and the sketches of the debates as complete and perfect as any that have been published at Augusta. The price of the Tri-Weekly will be *One Dollar* for the Session. To those of our regular subscribers who do not discontinue the weekly paper during the Session, the Tri-Weekly will be charged at seventy-five cents. It will be published on such days as will accommodate our subscribers on the different mail routes.

Any person procuring six subscribers and forwarding the amount of their subscription shall be entitled to a copy of the paper.

☞ All subscriptions from a distance must be paid in advance. The money can be remitted by the Representatives from the several towns at the meeting of the Legislature.

*Augusta, November*, 1836.

## Notice.

The subscriber would inform the public that he will keep at his farm this winter the old Bedford BOAR which took the first premium at Winthrop in 1835. The subscriber believes it may be safely asserted that said Boar is not excelled in valuable properties by any other in the County. He is from the celebrated stock sent over to this country as a present to Gen. Washington by the Duke of Bedford, and subsequently kept and recommended by Dr. Fisk and Gov. Lincoln of Worcester. Mass.

The progeny of this animal has been highly approved by all who have seen them, and the specimens shown at the late Show at Winthrop by the subscriber, and by Sanford Howard of Augusta, attracted the favorable notice of the Committee on Swine, and of the spectators in general.

JOSEPH W. HAINS.

*Hallowell, 12th mo. 9th*, 1336.

MISS JOHNSON

Has recently received an assortment of the Satin Beaver Bonnets, (Grecian style) of a variety of colors—among which are—green, slate, drab, &c. and would respectfully invite the Ladies of Winthrop and vicinity to call and examine for themselves, at her shop near the Temperance Hotel.

*Winthrop, November* 30, 1836.

## Poetry.

### THE SISTER.

BY EDWARD EVERETT,

*Governor of Massachusetts.*

Yes, dear one, to the envied train,
Of those around, thy homage pay;
But wilt thou never kindly deign
To think of him that's far away?
Thy form, thine eye, thine angel smile,
For many years I may not see;
But wilt thou not sometimes the while,
My sister dear, remember me?

But not in Fashion's brilliant hall,
Surrounded by the gay and fair,
And thou the fairest of them all—
O, think not, think not of me there,
But when the thoughtless crowd is gone,
And hushed the voice of senseless glee,
And all is silent still and lone,
And thou art sad, remember me.

Remember—but, loveliest, ne'er,
When in his orbit fair and high,
The morning's glowing charioteer
Rides proudly up the blushing sky;
But when the waning moon-beam sleeps
At moon light on that lonely lea,
And nature's pensive spirit weeps
In all her dews, remember me.

Remember me, I pray—but not
In Flora's gay and blooming hour,
When every break hath found its note,
And sunshine smiles in every flower,
But when the falling leaf is sear,
And withers sadly from the tree,
And o'er the ruins of the year,
Cold Autumn sweeps, remember me.

Remember me—but choose not, dear,
The hour when, on the gentle lake,
The sportive wavelets blue and clear,
Soft Rippling to the margin break;
But when the deaf'ning billows foam
In madness o'er the pathless sea,
Then let thy pilgrim fancy roam
Across them, and remember me.

Remember me—but not to join
If haply some thy friends should praise;
'Tis far too dear, that voice of thine
To echo what the stranger says;
They know us not—but should'st thou meet
Some faithful friend of me and thee,
Softly, sometimes, to him repeat
My name, and then remember me.

Remember me—not I entreat,
In scenes of festal week-day joy,
For then it were not kind or meet
The thought thy pleasure should alloy;
But on the sacred, solemn day,
And, dearest, on thy bended knee,
When thou for those thou lov'st dost pray,
Sweet spirit, then remember me.

Remember me—but not as I
On thee forever, ever dwell,
With anxious heart and drooping eye,
And doubts 'twould grieve thee should I tell
But in thy calm unclouded heart,
Where dark and gloomy visions flee,
O there, my sister, be my part,
And kindly there remember me.

## Miscellany.

### THE BRIDE—By N. P. Willis.

"I have, like all bachelors, speculated a great deal upon matrimony. I have seen young and beautiful women, the pride of gay circles, married—as the world said—well. Some have moved into costly houses, and their friends have all come and looked at their fine furniture and their splendid arrangements for happiness, and they have gone away and committed them to their sunny hopes, cheerfully, and without fear. It is natural to be sanguine for the young, and at such times I am carried away by similar feelings. I love to get unobserved into a corner, and watch the bride in her white attire, and with her smiling face and her soft eyes moving before me in their pride of life, weave a walking dream of her future happiness, and persuade myself that it will be true. I think how they will sit upon that luxurious sofa as the twilight falls, and build gay hopes, murmur in low tones the now unforbidden tenderness, and thrillingly the allowed kiss and the beautiful endearments of wedded life, will make even their parting joyous, and how gladly they will come back from the crowd and the empty mirth of the gay to each other's quiet company. I picture to myself that young creature, who blushes even now at his hesitating caress, listening eargerly for his footsteps as the night steals on, and wishing that he would come; and when he enters at last, and, with an effection as undying as his pulse, folds her to his bosom, I can feel the very tide that goes flowing through his heart, and gaze with him on her graceful form as she move about with him for the kind offices of affection, soothing all his unquiet cares, and making him forget even himself, in her young and unshadowed beauty.

"I go forward for years, and see her luxuriant hair put soberly away from her brow, and girlish graces ripened into dignity, and her bright loveliness chastened with the gentle meekness of maternal affection. Her husband looks on her with a proud eye, and shows the same fervent love and delicate attention which first won her, and fair children are growing up about them, and they go on, full of honor and untroubled years, and are remembered when they die!

"I say I love to dream thus when I go to give the young bride joy. It is the natural tendency of feelings touched by loveliness that fears nothing for itself, and, if I ever yield to darker feelings, it is because the light of the picture is changed. I am not fond of dwelling on such changes, and I will not, minutely, now. I allude to it only because I trust that my simple page will be read by some of the young and beautiful beings who move daily across my path, and I would whisper to them as they glide by joyously and confidingly, the secret of an unclouded future.

"The picture I have drawn above is not peculiar. It is colored like the fancies of the bride; and many—oh! many an hour will she sit, with her rich jewels lying loose in ner fingers, and dream such dreams as these. She believes them, too—and she goes on, for a while undeceived. The evening is not too long, while they talk of their plans for happiness, and the quiet meal is still pleasant with the delightful novelty of mutual reliance and attention. There comes soon, however, a time when personal topics bare and wearisome, and slight attentions will not alone keep up the social excitement. There are long intervals of silence, and detected symptoms of weariness; and the husband, first in his impatient manhood, breaks in upon the hours they were to spend together. I cannot follow it circumstantially. There come long hours of unhappy listlessness, and terrible misgivings of each other's worth and affection, till they can conceal their uneasiness no longer, and go out separately to seek relief, and lean upon a hollow world for the support which one who was their "lover and friend" could not give them!

"Heed this, ye who are winning by your innocent beauty, the affections of high-minded and thinking beings! Remember that he will give up the brother of his heart with whom he has had, ever, a fellowship of mind—the society of his cotemporary runners in the race of fame, who have held with him a stern companionship—and frequently, in his passionate love, he will break away from the arena of his burning ambition, to come and listen to the "voice of the chamber." It will bewilder him at first, but it will not long; and then, think you that an idle blandishment will chain the mind that has been used for years, to an equal communion? Think you, he will give up, for a week dalliance, the animating themes of men, and the search into the fine mysteries of knowledge! Oh! no, lady!—believe me—no! Trust not your influence to such light fetters! Credit not the old-fashioned absurdity that women's is a secondary lot—ministering to the necessities of her lord and master! It it a higher destiny I would award you. If your immortality is as complete, and your gift of mind as capable as ours of increase and elevation, I would put no wisdom of mine against God's evident allotment. I would charge you to water the undying bud, and give it healthy culture, and open its beauty to the sun—and then you may hope, that when your life is bound up with another, you will go on equally, and in a fellowship that shall pervade every earthly interest!"


### Stoves & Fire Frames.

The subscriber hereby gives notice that he continues to carry on the Stove, Hardware, Tin, Copper, and Sheet Iron business at the stand formerly occupied by Richards & Norcross, opposite the Augusta Hotel, and keeps constantly on hand a good assortment of Stoves;—among which are the Prophecy Cook Stoves, which are highly approved of by those who have used them, being well calculated for saving of fuel and labor; the Premium Cook Stove, of similar form and various sizes; Wilson's, James', Low's, and Gothic Cook Stoves. Fire Frames, of various sizes and patterns; superior Frames for Kitchens and Parlors; also *Grates*, Franklin Stoves, and Close Stoves suitable for Meeting Houses, School Houses, and Shops; Sheet Iron Stoves, Funnel, Sheet Iron, Zinc, and Copper, Cast Iron Pumps, Oven and Ash Mouths, Boiler Mouths with grates, together with a variety of house-keeping articles, such as Shovels and Tongs, Fire Dogs, Britannia Ware, Lamps, Candle Sticks, Waiters, Knives and Forks, of all qualities; Spoons, Sauce Pans, Fry Pans, Tea Boilers, Sad Irons, Bellows, Brushes, and various other articles. He invites those who are in want of any of the above articles, to favor him with a call, where any of the above articles can be purchased as cheap as elsewhere. He intends hereafter to keep a full assortment of custom made Tin Ware, of the best of stock. House Gutters and Conductors, and every article called for will be furnished at short notice.

EDMUND D. NORCROSS.

*Augusta, Sept.* 23, 1836. 34tf.

### Notice.

The subscriber is now prepared to attend punctually to the branches of *Horse* and *Ox Shoeing*.—He has half a dozen first rate *Sleighs*, new mode for sale low for cash or approved credit.

H. GOULD.

*Winthrop, Nov.* 30, 1836.